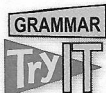


Using Nouns

A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea in your writing.
(See page 754.)

Person	athlete, Bonnie Blair, students, President Taft
Place	country, Canada, gymnasium, Tampa, middle school
Thing	dog, Irish setter, kayaks, stopwatch
Idea	holiday, Fourth of July, strength, freedom



Number from 1 to 9 on your own paper. For each of the 9 underlined nouns in the paragraph below, write whether it is a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

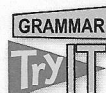
Volleyball is a team **(1)** sport. Team **(2)** members play on a **(3)** court divided by a net. To start, the **(4)** players on team A serve the ball over the **(5)** net to team B. Players on team B can hit the ball three **(6)** times on their **(7)** side of the net before returning the ball to team A. If team B isn't able to return the **(8)** ball, team A scores a **(9)** point.

Concrete, Abstract, and Collective Nouns

Concrete nouns name things that can be seen or touched.

Abstract nouns name things you can think about but cannot see or touch.

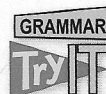
Concrete	food	snow	storm	heart
Abstract	hope	December	fear	love



On your own paper, write three more concrete nouns and three more abstract nouns. Share your nouns with a partner.

Collective nouns name a collection of people, animals, or things.

People	class	team	family	troop	crew
Animals	herd	flock	pack	pod	school



List at least five additional collective nouns of your own. Use each of these nouns in a separate sentence. Read one of your sentences aloud to a classmate.

Proper nouns

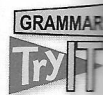
Proper nouns are always capitalized. Proper nouns name a specific person, place, or thing.

Common Proper Nouns

Proper Nouns

Common Proper Nouns

Proper Nouns



General Nouns

When you write, you can use general nouns to name a group of people, places, or things. General nouns are not capitalized.

General Nouns

Specific Nouns



Full Name

Born

Birthday

Family

Occupation

Address

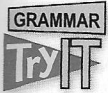
Proper and Common Nouns

Proper nouns name specific people, places, things, or ideas. Proper nouns are always capitalized. A **common noun** is any noun that is not a proper noun.

	Person	Place	Thing	Idea
Common	catcher	stadium	bat	league
Proper	Rachel	Yankee Stadium	Louisville Slugger	American League

Common nouns The man toured the stadium on the holiday.

Proper nouns Randy Williams toured Yankee Stadium on Labor Day.



Make a chart like the one above. Write four more common and four more proper nouns. Be sure to capitalize the proper nouns.

General and Specific Nouns

When you use specific nouns in your writing, you give the reader a clear picture of people, places, things, and ideas. The following chart shows the difference between **general nouns** and **specific nouns**.

General	tennis player	tournament	court	principle
Specific	Roger Federer	U.S. Open	tennis court	fairness



Read the facts below about Pete Sampras. Then write a brief paragraph about him, using as many specific nouns as possible.

Full Name: Pete Sampras
Born: August 12, 1971
Birthplace: Washington, D.C.
Family: wife Bridgette Wilson, children Christian and Ryan
Occupation: retired tennis player
Accomplishments: won 14 of tennis's Grand Slam titles (second highest number to date); ranked World No. 1 for a record 286 weeks

What can I do with nouns in my writing?

Show Possession

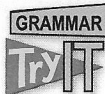
You can make your writing more specific by naming who (or what) possesses something. See the guidelines below. (Also see 664.4 and 666.1.)

Forming the Singular Possessive

- Add an apostrophe and an *s* to a singular noun: **Pat's ball.**
- For multi-syllable nouns ending in an *s* or a *z* sound, the possessive may be formed in two ways: **Cletus' glove** or **Cletus's glove.**

Forming the Plural Possessive

- Add an apostrophe for most plural nouns ending in *s*: **the boys' bats.**
- Add an apostrophe and an *s* for plural nouns not ending in *s*: **the men's lockers.**

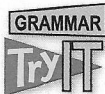


List five singular nouns in one column and five plural nouns in another column. (Include at least one or two singular nouns that end in an *s* or a *z* sound.) Then exchange papers with a classmate and write a sentence for each noun, using the possessive form of the word. Discuss the results with your partner.

Rename the Subject

Whenever you use a noun after a linking verb (*am, is, are, was, were, be, been, being*), the noun renames the subject and is called a **predicate noun**.

Dad was a pitcher for his high school team, but he was never a catcher.



List the 10 predicate nouns in the paragraph below.

- 1 Gita is not just any soccer player; she is the best scorer in the
- 2 league. When she was a young girl, her mother was the coach of the
- 3 local soccer team. Gita often tagged along with her mother to the
- 4 matches. She must have been a keen observer because she learned very
- 5 quickly when she started playing. Although her teammates were good
- 6 players, Gita was a standout. She has been a top-rated player for the last
- 7 three years. Gita has also been an excellent role model for youngsters,
- 8 and someday she may be an excellent coach.

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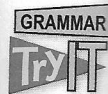
Example

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Make the Meaning of the Verb Complete

Some sentences are not complete with just a subject and a verb.

Reggie threw. (*What did Reggie throw?*)

Nell trusts. (*Whom does Nell trust?*)

When you use a transitive verb like “threw” or “trusts” in a sentence, you need to include a **direct object** to make the meaning of the verb complete. The direct object is a noun (or pronoun) that answers the question *what* or *whom*.

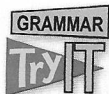
Reggie threw the football.

Nell trusts her teammates.

To add further information, you might include a noun (or pronoun) that answers the question *to whom* or *for whom*. This type of noun is called an **indirect object**. In order for a sentence to have an indirect object, it must also have a direct object.

Wayne tossed Raj the ball. (Wayne tossed the ball *to Raj*.)

I made my sister a pom-pom. (I made a pom-pom *for my sister*.)



Write the direct object in each of the following sentences. If there is an indirect object as well, write it and underline it.

Example: Tennis can give you a strong body.

body, you

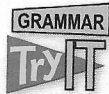
1. This sport burns calories, too.
2. Aunt Sheryl gave me a racquet.
3. I play tennis regularly.
4. Yesterday, I sent Ruth a powerful serve.

Add Specific Information

Another kind of object noun is the **object of a preposition** (see 756.7). A **prepositional phrase** begins with a preposition and ends with an object. You can use prepositional phrases to add specific information to sentences. The object of each prepositional phrase below is highlighted in blue. (Also see pages 554–555.)

I do some stretches before a game of tennis.

I also drink lots of water during a game.



Write a brief sports-related paragraph that includes five prepositional phrases. Underline the object of each prepositional phrase. Choose from these prepositions: *over*, *under*, *before*, *after*, *during*, and *against*. (See page 790 for more.) Read your paragraph aloud to a partner.